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Cc: Neugeboren, Steven[Neugeboren.Steven@epa.gov]; Prabhu, Aditi[Prabhu.Aditi@epa.gov]; Nalven, Heidi[Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov]; Glazer, Thomas[glazer.thomas@epa.gov]
From: Wehling, Carrie
Sent: Mon 2/27/2017 7:08:01 PM
Subject: FW: Bristol Bay - Another Letter from House Science Committee
Feb 2017 Johnson Letter.pdf

Since you asked for the Smith letter, am also sending you a counter letter from the same Committee.

Carrie

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From: Palomaki, Ashley
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:03 PM
To: Allnutt, David <Allnutt.David@epa.gov>; Stern, Allyn <Stern.Allyn@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>; McKenna, Elizabeth <Mckenna.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Wehling, Carrie <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>; Nalven, Heidi <Nalven.Heidi@epa.gov>
Subject: Bristol Bay - Another Letter from House Science Committee

Hi,

The media is reporting that we received a competing letter from the ranking member of the House Science Committee on Friday. The letter is attached.

Ashley

BRISTOL BAY

Lawmakers spar over Pebble in letters to EPA

Dylan Brown, E&E News reporter

Published: Monday, February 27, 2017

Democrats fired back after Republicans appealed to new U.S. EPA chief Scott Pruitt to revisit proposed limits on the Pebble copper and gold mine project in southwestern Alaska.

In a [letter](#) Friday, House Science, Space and Technology ranking member Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas) presented "a more complete picture" to address what she called "inaccuracies" in an earlier missive to EPA last week from Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas).

Smith urged Pruitt to abandon "unprecedented" pre-emptive limits that his predecessor proposed for the mine, which would be one of the world's largest copper and gold sites, located near the headwaters of Bristol Bay, a valuable salmon fishery ([E&E News PM](#), Feb. 22).

Pebble LP, a subsidiary of Canadian mining firm Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd., has tied up the proposed Clean Water Act Section 404 restrictions in court since 2014.

Smith's committee has repeatedly investigated alleged collusion between EPA and environmentalists, but Johnson defended an EPA analysis she says justified protections for streams that support salmon and fishing jobs.

"I hope that you believe putting America First also means protecting Americans first before the interests of foreign corporations," she wrote.

The election of regulation-averse President Trump spurred renewed hope in the Pebble project and triggered battles on Wall Street over investment in the mine ([E&ENews PM](#), Feb. 17).

Project advocates and Republicans have battled Democrats, fishermen, environmentalists and Alaska Native groups for more than a decade.

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